

SPRING  
2023

FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79 NEWSLETTER

www.FSD79.org

# Fremont Digest



## SETTING OUR STRATEGIC VISION

We are in the midst of resetting a shared vision for our future and setting meaningful goals as we draft our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan. In the first phase of the plan development, we held focus groups with staff, students, parents and community members. We accumulated 70 hours worth of feedback from approximately 450 students, parents, staff and community members ages 8-80+ via our Superintendent Entry Plan meetings.

*The information shaped our January strategic planning survey, which resulted in over 1,000 responses across constituent groups.*

Priorities emerged related to student growth and achievement, social and emotional health and well-being, and recruitment and retention of staff. Our narrowed focus on the Fremont community's priorities is driving our efforts forward, with the goal of taking Fremont School District 79 to the next level. Our goals will be accompanied by a renewed vision and district branding. This collective effort is inspiring our community, anchored by ongoing communication and fiscal responsibility.

**We plan to share the new strategic plan in fall 2023.**

Thanks to all those who have contributed along the way, this plan will be the outcome of tremendous community collaboration.



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### We Listened!

In our recent district-wide survey, community members asked for a mailed newsletter regarding District updates.

We hope this newsletter provides a variety of information and resources to keep you informed. Our next edition will be distributed in fall 2023.



**VISIT OUR  
WEBSITE**

[www.fsd79.org](http://www.fsd79.org)



# LEARNING SNAPSHOTS

**1 Kindergartners** took part in an annual field trip to the nearby Country Bumpkin Garden Center to participate in its Pumpkin Festival.

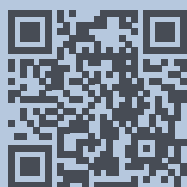
**2 Middle school tech leaders** visited Grand Dominion by Del Webb to provide tech support for residents of the senior-living community.

**3 Middle School students** demonstrated their STEM skills by participating in a Science Olympiad competition at College of Lake County in Grayslake.

**4 Third-graders** were captivated by a presentation on severe weather by Illinois Storm Chasers. Thank you to the Fremont PTO for making it possible!

**5 Second-graders** completed a research project in order to learn more about a country in their family background. The students put together information about their family, which they presented to guests who visited their classrooms.

**6 Elementary school students** study robotics and coding through the use of Bee-Bots.



## SIGN UP

to receive our  
District e-newsletter:  
<https://bit.ly/3KimhHf>

1 FIELD TRIP TO PUMPKIN FESTIVAL



2 TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR SENIORS



3 SCIENCE OLYMPIAD



4 SEVERE WEATHER LEARNING WITH ILLINOIS STORM CHASERS



5 FAMILY HERITAGE LEARNING

6 ROBOTICS + CODING





# A COLLABORATIVE CULTURE



RACHEL GLOGOVSKY—TEACHER + PARENT + ALUM



DANA BESTLER—HONORED AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING



OUR DISTRICT THEME—"BETTER TOGETHER"

## FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER

*"I had such a positive experience coming here as a student that I wanted to come back and work alongside some of those teachers and be able to positively change other students' lives the way that they changed mine. I became a teacher because of all of the wonderful teachers that I have had."*

—RACHEL GLOGOVSKY  
FREMONT TEACHER, PARENT AND ALUM

## EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

In an effort to recognize employees for going above and beyond, the Fremont Board of Education instituted a recognition at their regularly monthly meetings this year. School nurse Dana Bestler (pictured with certificate) was honored at the October meeting for her outstanding leadership and service in keeping our Fremont community healthy.

## BETTER TOGETHER!

Fremont staff have fully embraced this year's District theme of "Better Together" through continual teamwork and collaboration with colleagues, students and families. It all adds up to an amazing culture!

## ONGOING FACILITY MAINTENANCE

The District continues to address crucial Health/Life Safety issues and maintenance needs to maintain modern and efficient school facilities. Planned improvements include:

- Educational science room renovations
- Safety upgrades such as playground equipment replacements
- Maintenance such as tuckpointing and pavement resurfacing
- Security upgrades such as installing entrance intercoms and cameras, safety bollards and updated door locks

Capital improvement plans are evaluated on an annual basis and projects are selected based on identified needs and priorities. These large scale projects are funded through the operating budget and new development impact fees.

EDUCATIONAL SCIENCE ROOM RENOVATIONS



## JOIN THE FREMONT TEAM

### *Fremont employees love working here!*

Over 92% of our employees reported satisfaction with the District in a 2023 survey. Our staff noted that the District's outstanding facilities, amazing students and families, positive work environment and support from administration keep them at Fremont.

If you or someone you know wants to join our talented team, you can learn more about job opportunities at Fremont at our website below.



**VIEW JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

<https://bit.ly/3ld9Eus>

# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

**Did you know?** Fremont School District 79 has the second-lowest tax rate among area elementary districts.

**What this means to taxpayers—** Fremont School District 79 values fiscal responsibility while holding high standards for student performance.

**Did you know?** In December 2022, the Fremont School District 79 School Board approved a 3-year tax abatement in the debt service fund.

**What this means to taxpayers—** The District is reducing taxes in the debt service by approximately \$700,000 over the next three years.

**Did you know?** Fremont School District 79 is one of the 10% of school districts in the nation rated Aa1 or higher from Moody's Investment Service.

**What this means to taxpayers—** These ratings allow the District to receive better interest rates on bonds, saving taxpayers when borrowing may be needed.

**Did you know?** Fremont School District 79 received \$1.3M in federal funds to respond to pandemic-impacted learning.

**What this means to taxpayers—** Federal funds were strategically used to improve educational programming, such as kindergarten and reading support, to boost student performance.

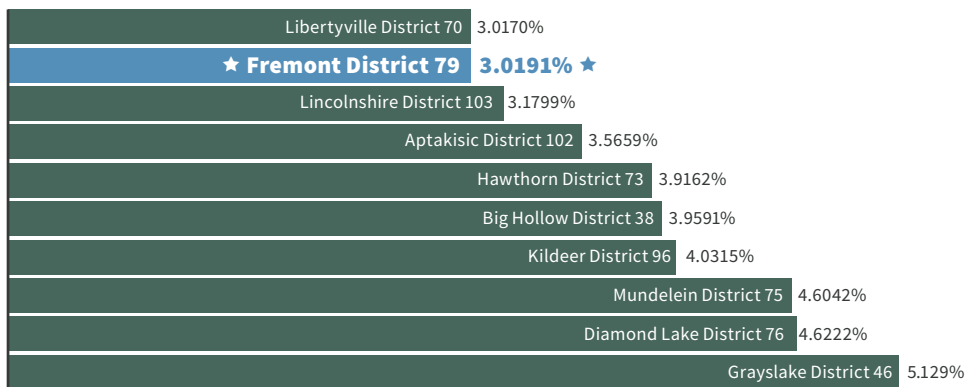


**VIEW OUR  
FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

<https://bit.ly/3LrDTkr>

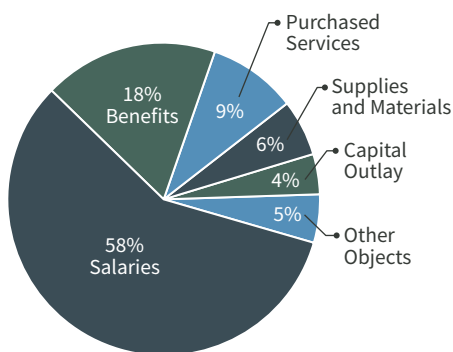
# FINANCIAL SPOTLIGHT

## LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS TAX RATE COMPARISON (2021)

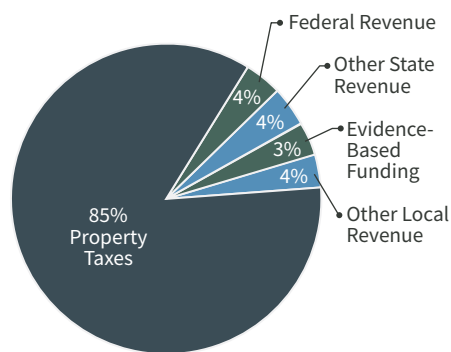


## FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79 BUDGET ALLOCATION

**Proposed Revenue Allocation by Object**



**Budgeted Expenditure Allocation by Source**



# ISBE RATING



Our Fiscal Year 2022 Illinois State Board of Education **financial rating** was a **4.0**, the **highest designation a school can receive**. The rating is based on fund balance/revenue ratio, expenditure/revenue ratio, cash on hand, short-term debt and long-term debt. Due to responsible fiscal management, the District has continued to maintain a 4.0 designation.

# FINANCIAL RECOGNITION



**Meritorious Budget Award**—Fremont is **one of only 15 districts in the state to be recognized for excellence in budget presentation**. The District has earned the honor 10 consecutive years.



**Financial Recognition Award**—The District has **earned the highest financial distinction from the State of Illinois with the Financial Recognition Award**, which the District has received every year since the state started the program in 2003.



# FREMONT AT THE FOREFRONT

Post-pandemic student growth data demonstrated a rebound. At the conclusion of their Fremont experience, our eighth-graders achieve at top national levels. Fall 2022 data showed our **eighth-graders achieving at the national 85th percentile for reading and at the 87th percentile for math.**

All Fremont schools earned a designation status of either “Commendable” or “Exemplary” for 2022 as announced by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Illinois Principals Association Lake Region Principal of the Year was awarded to **Krista Winkelman** (Fremont Middle School) and **Stefan Ladenburger** (Fremont Elementary and Intermediate Schools), based on their positive impact and strong leadership.

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*Fremont’s School Board was one of just 33 in the entire state to earn recognition for being engaged in activities that lead to excellence in local school governance in support of quality public education.*

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Fremont Middle School science teacher **Megan Temple** was named a recipient of the 2023 **Those Who Excel Award of Meritorious Service** as presented by the Illinois State Board of Education.



STEFAN LADENBURGER—2023 LAKE REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



KRISTA WINKELMAN—2023 LAKE REGION PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR



MEGAN TEMPLE—2023 THOSE WHO EXCEL AWARD

## TUITION-FREE FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, full-day kindergarten in Fremont will be free for all students. By eliminating tuition, all students are able to benefit academically, socially and emotionally.



**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN** for the 2023-2024 school year. Visit: [www.fsd79.org/domain/143](http://www.fsd79.org/domain/143)



## FREMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT 79

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ACCESS

The District has instituted a live video stream of its regular monthly Board meetings. The stream can be accessed via the District's YouTube page: [www.youtube.com/FSD79](http://www.youtube.com/FSD79).

Board meeting materials are available via the District's website by noon on the day of each regular meeting. Recaps of monthly meetings are available on the website by the Friday following the meeting.

### FOLLOW FREMONT ONLINE



Fremont School District 79



@FSD79

## MEET OUR NEW SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fremont Community,

*I am beyond proud to serve your community as Superintendent of Schools. As I learn more from our educators, students, parents and community members, I am energized by the strong commitment to our schools and the desire to take the district to the next level.*

*Fremont is a special place, and I look forward to our continued engagement.*

Sincerely,

Dr. Trisha Kocanda  
Superintendent of Schools

